

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 12, 2016**

LOCATION: Public Services Administration Building (PSAB), Charles River Room

ATTENDING: Janet Carter Bernardo (arrived at 7:40 pm.), Stephen Farr, Peter Oehlkers, Alison Richardson, Cory Rhoades, Sharon Soltzberg, Matthew Varrell (Director of Conservation), Debbie Anderson (Conservation Specialist)

GUESTS: Will Barber, Howard Breslau, Walter Cardinali, Steven Colan, Robert Dunning, Madison Gallelo, Joyce Hastings, Brendan Lombardi, Kevin O'Brien, Shalini Rao, Diane Simonelli, Brian Sparrow, Mike Toohill

P. Oehlkers opened the public meeting at 7:34 pm.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2016 by C. Rhoades, seconded by A. Richardson, approved 5-0-1 S. Farr abstained.

ENFORCEMENT & VIOLATION UPDATES

HEARINGS

124 ELDER ROAD – NOTICE OF INTENT (DEP FILE #234-7XX)

J. Carter Bernardo opened the Public Hearing at 7:50 pm.

D. Simonelli presented the proposed project. She stated that there was no DEP File# assigned to the project yet. The homeowner, Shalini Rao and the builder, Brian Sparrow were present.

D. Simonelli stated that this is a single-family home demolition and re-build project located within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Hurd Brook, which is located on the other side of the neighboring house. Riverfront Area does not occur on the site due to the presence of a culvert that is more than 500-feet in length. The additional impervious area would total 96 square feet in the Buffer Zone. Infiltration is proposed. The new driveway will be substantially smaller than the existing driveway and a pervious paver patio is proposed. One cherry tree is proposed for removal within the easement. D. Simonelli had spoken with various Town Departments regarding placement of replacement trees in the drainage easement located on the property and was instructed to try and avoid those locations. They are proposing to install one replacement tree outside the jurisdiction and native shrub plantings around the proposed patio.

A. Richardson questioned whether there was concern for the root system of the large maple tree located in the vicinity of the proposed patio. D. Simonelli will speak with their arborist about any potential damage to the tree. The abutter, Mr. Cardinali, stated that it may be a silver maple. J. Carter Bernardo suggested moving the patio to the other side of the house. J. Carter Bernardo informed the builder that at least 12 to 18-inches of stone is needed beneath a pervious paver patio to have enough storage volume. The proposed tree and shrub plantings will be native and D. Simonelli will provide a list of potential species. A. Richardson expressed concern regarding

a willow tree in the vicinity of the proposed infiltration system in the front of the house. D. Simonelli will discuss with the Arborist.

Motion to continue the public hearing for 124 Elder Road (DEP FILE #234-7XX), for additional information and a DEP File #, to May 26, 2016 at 8:15 pm. by S. Farr, seconded by C. Rhoades, approved 6-0-0.

11 AMELIA ROAD – REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY

J. Carter Bernardo opened the Public Hearing at 8:07 pm.

The homeowner, Steve Colan presented the proposed project. There is a 20-foot by 40-foot existing in-ground pool that they would like to remove. Hurd Brook is located beyond a fence adjacent to the pool approximately 15-feet away. An existing shed which houses the pool equipment will also be removed. M. Varrell stressed that good erosion controls are necessary, to consist of straw bales and silt fence. The existing fence is to remain. Mr. Colan explained there is an existing retaining wall located behind the shed that will need to be replaced at some point. The Commission agreed to include the approval for the reconstruction of the retaining wall as part of this filing as it is included in the Application. The pool area will be re-seeded as lawn.

Motion to close the public hearing for 11 Amelia Road by S. Farr, seconded by C. Rhoades, approved 6-0-0.

Motion to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability for 11 Amelia Road by S. Farr, seconded by C. Rhoades, approved 6-0-0.

0 FOREST STREET – NOTICE OF INTENT (NGWP FILE #18)

J. Carter Bernardo opened the public hearing at 8:16 pm.

M. Varrell noted that this is a Bylaw-only filing. Mike Toohill representing the Wellesley Country Club presented the project. He stated that the fence removal is part of a larger project, located outside of the Commission's jurisdiction. He explained that the project will involve the removal of approximately 90 feet of chain-link fence which is overtaken by oriental bittersweet along Brookside Road just south of the Needham/Wellesley town line. The removal is within 100-feet of an isolated wetland located in Needham. M. Toohill explained that he has studied the isolated wetland for 3 years in the spring and has not identified any use by amphibians of the pool for breeding. He indicated that the water quality is poor, perhaps from roadway runoff, to the point that it cannot support vernal pool obligates. M. Varrell concurred with his assumption. M. Toohill stated they planned to remove the fence and only cut the oriental bittersweet, not treat it. M. Varrell noted that it is not only bittersweet entwined in the fence but grape and poison ivy as well.

An old wire fence will remain in place. M. Varrell noted residential landscape debris dumping in the area. A "No Dumping" sign will be conditioned as a requirement of the approval. In addition, portions of old silt fence remain and their removal should be conditioned. M. Varrell asked if the area will be used as construction access for the proposed golf course project. M. Toohill replied that it will be used as access for the project. Erosion control for the construction entrance during the work will consist of straw bales or wattles as per Zoning Board of Appeals and Town of Wellesley requirements. M. Varrell explained that he had reviewed the proposed project when it was submitted to ZBA for any Conservation concerns and had gone on

the worst-case scenario that the isolated wetland was a vernal pool. He reviewed drainage calculations describing that overland flows to the wetland will decrease. The ZBA permit had a requirement that the Conservation Commission be satisfied with the hydrology of the course design even though it is located outside their jurisdiction. J. Carter Bernardo is satisfied with the hydrology. M. Toohill stated the areas where the fence posts are removed will be loamed and seeded.

Motion to close the public hearing for 0 Forest Street (NGWP FILE #18) by S. Farr, seconded by A. Richardson, approved 6-0-0.

Motion to issue an Order of Conditions for 0 Forest Street (NGWP FILE #18) by S. Farr, seconded by S. Soltzberg, approved 6-0-0.

159 OXBOW ROAD – NOTICE OF INTENT (DEP FILE #234-756)

J. Carter Bernardo opened the public hearing at 8:30 pm.

Joyce Hastings of GLM Engineering, Inc. presented the proposed project to construct a 24-foot by 14-foot addition to the garage and expansion to the driveway to access the garage addition. The Charles River is located on the property and has associated Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. The proposed project is located in the outer 100-foot of the Riverfront Area. M. Varrell confirmed that the project will be reviewed only under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act not under the Bylaw. Approximately 700 sq. ft. of the roof will be infiltrated through a drywell. Between the house and the fringe of wetlands associated with the river is existing lawn. Staked silt fence is proposed for erosion control. No trees are proposed for removal. J. Hastings was asked to revise the plan due to an error in the drainage calculations. She explained that she didn't believe she would get a DEP # in time for the hearing and had not revised the plan, she will submit the revised plan to Conservation staff.

Motion to close the public hearing for 159 Oxbow Road (DEP File #234-756) by S. Farr, seconded by S. Soltzberg, approved 6-0-0.

Motion to issue an Order of Conditions for 159 Oxbow Road (DEP File #234-756)) by S. Farr, seconded by C. Rhoades, approved 6-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEEDHAM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT GROUP (GREATER BOSTON PROJECT) – FIT TRAIL AT RIDGE HILL PRESENTATION

A group of Needham High School Seniors including Will Barber, Brendan Lombardi and Madison Gallelo presented a proposal for the renovation of the Fit Trail located at Ridge Hill Reservation. The students take a course at the High School called "The Greater Boston Project". Through this course they were assigned a project called "The Community Action Project" where they focus on an issue in the Town that they feel needs improvement. Their group was assigned exercise opportunities in Needham. They concentrated their research on exercise opportunities at parks in Needham.

Their research found that there are actually plentiful opportunities for the citizens of Needham to get out and exercise. Once they determined that exercise opportunities were plentiful, they

switched their focus to renovation of existing amenities to motivate the public to utilize them. The group is focusing on the Fit Trail at Ridge Hill which was constructed in the 1970's and is out of date and in poor shape. On the plus side, the trail is in a great location with plenty of parking. The group discussed how additional signage advertising the trail and adding more of the popular cross-fit stations to the trail would make it more of a destination. As part of their research, the students polled residents in their twenties and found 74% of those polled had utilized the Fit Trail. When asked if the trail was renovated to include cross-fit stations, approximately 84% of the same people polled responded that they would use the trail. The students suggested that the name "Fit Trail" could be changed to the "Needham Cross-Fit Trail at Ridge Hill" and advertised as such. The goal of the presentation was to get feedback from the Commission as to whether they thought the project was feasible. The seniors the following year would focus on funding the project.

J. Carter Bernardo asked for a sense of what the students in their age group thought of the project. They replied that students involved in sports would utilize the trail off-season to keep in condition. Perhaps the local YMCA could utilize it as well. A. Richardson noted that the current cross-fit systems are grouped in a way to make it a social workout. J. Carter Bernardo stated that the Commission looks forward to seeing where the project leads in the future but appreciates any way to get more people to utilize Ridge Hill.

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE – 32 CANTERBURY LANE (DEP FILE #234-671)

D. Anderson reported that the proposed project involved the replacement of a catch basin located in the wetland that was constantly clogged with debris, with a bee-hive style grate and the replacement of a deck with a pervious paver patio. The homeowner, Kevin O'Brien, stated that the new grate, in conjunction with the berm have worked as intended in keeping the water out of the backyard. D. Anderson noted that they had proposed the removal of one tree but it was later determined that the tree could remain and the patio was installed as approved.

Motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 32 Canterbury Lane (DEP File #234-671) by S. Farr, seconded by C. Rhoades, approved 6-0-0.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by C. Rhoades, seconded by S. Farr, approved 6-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, May 26, 2016 at 7:30 PM in the Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room.